



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/004,685	12/05/2001	Janne Haavisto	442-010740-US(PAR)	7613
2512	7590	06/03/2005	EXAMINER	
PERMAN & GREEN			LAM, HUNG H	
425 POST ROAD			ART UNIT	
FAIRFIELD, CT 06824			PAPER NUMBER	

2615

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/004,685	Applicant(s) HAAVISTO, JANNE	
	Examiner Hung H. Lam	Art Unit 2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 December 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>01/25/02, 03/24/04</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

2. Figures 1,2a and 2b should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 19 is objected to because of the following informalities: “said device” of line 1 should be changed to “said electronic device”. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1, 2, 11 and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Haba (US-6,330,027).

With regarding to **claim 1**, Haba discloses a method for the transmission of data between a camera module and an electronic device (Fig.1; camera module 1 and electronic device 2), said method comprising the steps of generating image data in the image sensor of the camera module (Fig. 1; CCD 103 and S/H AGC Circuit 104; Col. 4, Ln. 28-52; Col. 6, Ln. 11-12; image data/ gain value is generated from S/H AGC 104), said image sensor comprising at least one row of pixels, and said image data comprising the data generated by said row of pixels (the image pickup 103 inherently includes at least one row of pixels and generates image data from the row of pixel; col. 4, Ln. 27-44), and collecting statistical data from said image data (Col. 6, Ln. 9-20; statistical data is interpreted as V sync data which is collected by processing unit 2 for

each of the video sync signal line), wherein the method further comprises: transmitting said image data and said statistical data from the camera module to the electronic device essentially at the same time (Col. 6, Ln. 15-17; image data/ gain value and statistical data/ V sync are inherently transmitted at the same time frame).

With regarding to **claim 2**, Haba discloses a method wherein said image data and said statistical data are transmitted interlaced with each other on at least one common bus (Fig 1; image data/ gain value and statistical data/ V sync are inherently interlaced and transmitted at the same time because the transmission is performed on one single bidirectional serial bus 3 and both data are needed for AF and AE control signals of the next immediate image).

With regarding to **claim 11**, Haba discloses a device comprising a camera module and an electronic device (Fig.1; camera module 1 and electronic device 2), comprising means for generating image data in the image sensor of the camera module (Fig. 1, image pickup element 103 and AGC 104), said image sensor comprising at least one row of pixels and said image data comprising the data generated by said rows of pixels (the image pickup 103 inherently includes at least one row of pixels and generates image data from the row of pixel; Col. 4, Ln. 28-52; Col. 6, Ln. 11-12), means for collecting statistical data on said image data (Col. 6, Ln. 9-20; statistical data is interpreted as V sync which is collected by processing unit 2 for each of the video sync signal line), wherein the device further comprises means for transmitting image data and statistical data from the camera module to the electronic device essentially at the same time (Col. 6, Ln. 15-17; image data/ gain value and statistical data/ V sync are inherently transmitted at the same time frame performed on one

single bidirectional serial bus 3 and both data are needed for AF and AE control signals of the next immediate image).

With regarding to **claim 15**, Haba discloses the same subject matter as claimed in claim 11. Further more, Haba discloses a device wherein the device also comprises means for generating an image-processing parameter from the transmitted statistical data (Col. 4, Ln. 16-21; Col. 6, Ln. 9-17; Col. 6, Ln. 45-47; image-processing parameter is interpreted as the auto focus {AF}, auto exposure {AE} control data or auto white balance {AWB} that are generated when the processing circuit 202 collects each of the V sync signal line and gain value from camera module 1).

With regarding to **claim 16**, Haba discloses a device, wherein in addition, the device comprises means for image data processing to process the transmitted image data based on said image-processing parameter (Col. 6, Ln. 43-47; the control module (106) of camera 1 controls the AF/AE control module corresponding to the image-processing parameter supplied by processing circuit 202. It is inherent that the control module (209) of unit 2 also controls the white balance corresponding to the image-processing parameter).

With regarding to **claim 17**, Haba discloses a device wherein said means for image data processing have been implemented for processing the image to be generated (Col. 4, Ln. 16-21; Col. 6, Ln. 9-17; AF and AE control-data from signal processing circuit 202 are supplied to the camera control module 1 in order to perform auto focus or auto exposure for next image).

With regarding to **claim 18**, Haba discloses a device wherein said means for image data processing have additionally been implemented to control the image sensor in acquiring the next image (Col. 4, Ln. 16-21; Col. 6, Ln. 9-17; AF and AE control-data from signal processing circuit 202 are supplied to camera control module 1 in order to perform auto focus or auto exposure for next image).

With regarding to **claim 19**, Haba discloses a device wherein said device is a mobile communications terminal (Fig. 1; the electronic device 2 is capable of communicate with camera module 1 or host terminal unit 4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 3-5, 7-10, 12, 13 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haba.

With regarding to **claim 3**, Haba discloses the same subject matter as claimed in claims 1 and 2. Further more, Haba discloses a method wherein said image data and said statistical data are transmitted in the same data frame (Col. 6, Ln. 15-17; image data/ gain value and statistical

data/ V sync are inherently transmitted in the same data frame because the transmission is performed on one single bidirectional serial bus 3 and both data are needed for AF and AE control signals of the next immediate image), said data frame comprising at least one image data unit at least one statistical data unit (Fig. 1; Col. 4, Ln. 45-52; Col. 6, Ln. 11-12; image data/ gain value is generated from S/H AGC 104; Col. 6, Ln. 15-17; V sync is interpreted as statistical data). However, Haba fails to disclose the data frame comprising at least one at least one synchronization code to separate said image data unit from said statistical data unit.

Official Notice is taken that it is well known and expected in the art to add a specific synchronization pattern, or sequence to the leading end or both the leading and trailing ends of each block of data or frame in order to transmit numerous data links between integrated circuit. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Haba to include at least one synchronization code in order to separate each block of image data and statistical data unit and thereby improving the way of identifying individual block of data in according to the recognized synchronization codes.

With regarding to **claim 4**, Haba discloses a method wherein said image data unit comprises image data generated by at least one said row of pixels (Fig. 1; S/H AGC Circuit 104; Col. 4, Ln. 45-52; S/H AGC/ image data unit inherently includes the image data which generated by at least one row of pixels) and that said statistical data unit (V sync) comprises statistical data for said image data generated by at least one row of pixels (Fig 1; statistical data/ V sync is inherently generated by at least one row of pixels because the statistical data is needed for the processing circuit 202 to issue AF and AE control signals to camera unit 1).

With regarding to **claim 5**, Haba discloses the same subject matter as claimed in claims 1 and 4. Further more, Haba discloses a method wherein said row of pixels is a vertical or horizontal row in said image sensor (the row of pixels is inherently a common vertical or horizontal row of the image pickup 103).

With regarding to **claims 7 and 20**, Haba discloses the same subject matter as claimed in claims 1-2 and 11-19. However, Haba fails to explicitly disclose wherein the camera module and the electronic device are integrated into one single device and that said bus is a device-internal bus.

Official Notice is taken that it is well known and expected in the art to integrate the camera module, the electronic device and the bus into a single multimedia camera chip in order to reduce the space, power constraints and overall cost. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Haba by having the camera module, the electronic device, and the serial bus integrated into one single device in order to provide an improve image pickup unit and thereby reducing space, power, and overall cost.

With regarding to **claim 8**, Haba ~~in view of Skirpin~~ discloses a method wherein said transmitted statistical data (V sync) is used as the generation basis for at least one parameter related to image processing (Col. 4, Ln. 16-21; Col. 6, Ln. 9-11).

With regarding to **claim 9**, Haba discloses a method wherein said at least one image-processing parameter created is used for the processing of the image to be generated (Col. 4, Ln.

16-21; Col. 6, Ln. 9-11; Col. 6, Ln. 45-47; image-processing parameter is interpreted as the auto focus {AF}, auto exposure {AE} control data, auto white balance {AWB} that are read from signal processing circuit 202).

With regarding to **claim 10**, Haba discloses a method wherein said at least one image-processing parameter is used for adjusting the image sensor of the camera module to generate image data for the next image (Col. 4, Ln. 16-21; Col. 6, Ln. 9-11; AF and AE control-data from signal processing circuit 202 are supplied to camera module 1 in order for the system control unit 106 to perform auto focus and auto exposure to generate next image).

With regarding to **claim 12**, Haba discloses the same subject matter as claimed in claim 11. Further more, Haba discloses the same limitations as recited in claim 3. Therefore, claim 12 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed under claim 3.

With regarding to **claim 13**, Haba discloses Haba discloses the same limitations as recited in claim 4. Therefore, claim 13 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed under claim 4.

9. Claims 6 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haba in view of Shimizu (US-6,515,271).

With regarding to **claim 6**, Haba discloses the same subject matter as claimed in claim 5. Except that Haba fails to explicitly disclose wherein said data frame is transmitted from the camera module to the electronic device in the form of a serial synchronized differential signal. However, the limitations are well known in the art as taught by Shimizu.

In the same field of endeavor, Shimizu teaches a CMOS image sensor unit using low voltage differential signaling (LVDS) circuit as a mean for transmitting image data between transmitting side (CMOS image sensor unit) and the receiving side (CPU and Memory) (Fig. 4-5; Col. 7, Ln. 65-67 – Col. 8, Ln. 1-35). In light of the teaching from Shimizu, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Haba by having a low voltage differential signal circuit to transmits and receives data in order to transmit the data frame from the camera module to the electronic device in the form of a serial synchronized differential signal. The modifications thus provide serial data transmission with low power consumption, less noise interference, less image deterioration and simplify the construction (Shimizu ; Col. 2, Ln. 62-67).

With regarding to **claim 14**, Haba discloses the same subject matter as claimed in claim 13. Except that Haba fails to explicitly disclose wherein said data transmission means are additionally implemented for transmitting said data frame from the camera module to the electronic device in the form of a serial synchronized differential signal. However, the limitations are well known in the art as taught by Shimizu.

In the same field of endeavor, Shimizu teaches a CMOS image sensor unit using low voltage differential signaling (LVDS) circuit as a mean for transmitting image data between transmitting side (CMOS image sensor unit) and the receiving side (CPU and Memory) (Fig. 4-5; Col. 7, Ln. 65-67 – Col. 8, Ln. 1-35). In light of the teaching from Shimizu, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Haba by having a low voltage differential signal circuit to transmit and receives data in order to transmit the data frame from the camera module to the electronic device in the form of a

serial synchronized differential signal. The modifications thus provide serial data transmission with low power consumption, less noise interference, less image deterioration and simplify the construction (Shimizu ; Col. 2, Ln. 62-67).

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a) Malerevich (US-6,611,538) discloses a data transmission synchronization system wherein a specific synchronization pattern or sequence is added to the leading or trailing ends of each block of data.

b) Harna et al. (US-2002-0,111,188) disclose an optimized camera sensor architecture for a mobile telephone wherein the camera module communicates with the mobile telephone via an interface bus.

c) Anderson (US-6,177,958) discloses a salient image-capturing device having a serial bus transmits data between an imaging sensor and a camera computer.

d) Eto (US-5,978,651) discloses a method for bi-directionally transmitting digital video signal between camera head and control module.

e) Murata (US-6,201,570) discloses digital television camera having transmission unit transmits data between camera head and camera control unit.

f) Ackland and Dickinson (Camera on a Chip; IEEE Feb 8, 96 –Pages 22-26) disclose a multimedia camera having the NTSC common board and the interface board integrated into a single multimedia camera chip.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung H. Lam whose telephone number is 571-272-7320. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's ~~supervisor~~ ^{primary}, NGOC YEN VU can be reached on 571-272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HL

05/31/05


NGOC-YEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER